

## गुष्पेर'णुष्ठ'शुर्व स्थि स्था श्री क्षेंर प्राश्चिष्ठ

क्वयेर युथ ग्रुप ं रेंड्ड केंट्र

RegdN: 244935/077/078

Queer Youth Group

Began as a loose network in 2018, registered as not-for-profit in 2020, we are led by young people of marginalized sexual orientation, gender identity & sex characteristics (queer) folks for queer rights.

N.S. 1141/01/03, 22 Oct 2020, 2077/07/06 B.S.

## **Public Statement**

Every year on October 22 - International Day of Action for Trans Depathologization is celebrated to abolish pathologization of transgender identity. The movement began since 2009 mainly from the Spanish context spreading across the globe. Activists across the world have worked together towards dismantling pathologization of gender diversity.

During the <u>72nd World Health Assembly (WHA)</u> on May 2019, World Health Organization officially adopted the International Classification of Diseases – 11th Revision (ICD-11) which removed trans-related categories from the Chapter on Mental and Behavioral Disorders which formally de-psycho-pathologized transgender identity. However, there is still a lot of work to do for a full depathologization which can be achieved by complete removal of psyco-medical classifications.

The Supreme Court of Nepal has always upheld gender identity as a subject of self-feeling and self-determination ruling gender diversity to be natural. However the proposed amendment bill for Citizenship Act 2063 including the endorsement by State Affairs and Good Governance Committee of the federal parliament in June gears to introduce pathologization by requiring a 'medical certification' to be able to have citizenship certificate issued and amended to one's gender identity. The bill further adds many problematic clauses to limit rights of transgender & gender diverse people.

Pathologization of transgender identity is rooted to cissexism and transphobia, which perpetuates all forms of violence, stigma and discrimination against trans people.

We call upon the government to remove any legislation and legal codes that pathologizes trans people, establish legal measures for trans people to be able to change their names and gender marker based on self-determination and ensure right to freely decide about our bodies and be able to live a dignified life.

Rukshana Kapali Executive Director